



# Town of Wenham

Selectmen / Town Administrator

TEL 978-468-5520

FAX 978-468-8014

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Board of Selectmen  
**FROM:** Peter Lombardi, Town Administrator  
**RE:** Town Administrator's Report  
**DATE:** March 6, 2018

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### **Storm Follow-up**

Last week's storm led to another round of power outages for many residents, a handful of which took 48+ hours to rectify. The most significant public safety event Town officials faced was the gas main fire in the vicinity of 45 Cherry Street that occurred mid-afternoon on Friday March 2. The fire was a result of a live electrical wire that was downed when a nearby utility pole was damaged during the storm that then ignited a major underground gas line. Until National Grid was able to turn off the gas supply, the roadway was closed and homes in the area were evacuated. Wenham Police handled traffic operations and Wenham Fire worked to contain the damage, watering down the homes and property immediately adjacent to the blaze. Thanks to their prompt and coordinated efforts, no homes were damaged and no one was injured. Kudos to all of the firefighters and police officers that responded to this incident and were able to limit the extent of what was an exceedingly hazardous situation, and thanks to Manchester, Hamilton and Topsfield Fire Departments for providing mutual aid.

While post-storm clean-up continues and as we brace for yet another nor'easter, we are once again allowing residents to drop off their storm debris at the following locations through next Monday, March 12: Pingree Park, West Wenham Playground, and the Iron Rail parking lot on Grapevine Road.

### **375<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event**

Literature night for the 375<sup>th</sup> Anniversary is scheduled for Wednesday March 14 at 7 pm in Town Hall. The winner of the writing contest on life in Wenham will be announced and contestants will be invited to share portions of their entries at this event. Light refreshments will be served as well.

### **Civics Bee**

The Hamilton-Wenham League of Women Voters is hosting their third annual Civics Bee on Thursday March 15 at 7 pm at Miles River Middle School, part of an ongoing initiative to drive civic engagement across the community. Team registration is open and space is limited to 30 teams of 4, each a mix of students and community members. The civics bee is

a friendly trivia-style competition with questions about citizenship, founding documents, and local, state, and national government. Wenham town officials have provided the local government questions for this year's competition. This event is completely free of charge and open to the public. The 8th graders will be providing refreshments as a fundraiser for their class trip to Washington, DC this spring.